



MEDIA STATEMENT

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SPECIAL REPORT ON THE DEMOGRAPHICS OF ORANG ASLI

Orang Asli Population Reached 227,900 in 2025 with an Average Annual Growth Rate of 1.2 per cent, Pahang Remains Dominant

PUTRAJAYA, 14th October 2025 – The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) today released the **Special Report On The Demographics Of Orang Asli** based on the findings from Population and Housing Census of Malaysia 2020. This report presents statistics on the Orang Asli, covering population, households, dwellings, basic amenities and social indicators such as social media usage and digital access by state and administrative district.

In a statement today, Dato' Sri Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin, Chief Statistician Malaysia said, "Orang Asli population in Malaysia is estimated to increased at 227,900 in 2025 as compared to 213,461 in 2020 with an average annual growth rate of 1.2 per cent."

Pahang recorded the highest Orang Asli population at 82,824 in 2020, followed by Perak (58,942) and Selangor (21,312). Batang Padang, Perak recorded the highest population at 17,092, followed by Lipis (14,999) and Rompin (14,985) in Pahang.

The composition of Orang Asli population consists of 108,354 or 50.8 per cent males as compared to 105,107 (49.2%) females. The sex ratio remained at 103 males for every 100 females in both 2020 and 2010. The highest sex ratio was recorded in W.P. Labuan (150), Sabah (116) and Kedah (115).

Orang Asli community comprises three main ethnic groups namely Senoi, Melayu Proto and Negrito which include a total of 18 sub-ethnic groups. Senoi group includes sub-ethnic Temiar, Semai, Mah Meri, Jahut, Che Wong and Semoq Beri. Melayu Proto group includes Jakun, Temuan, Semelai, Orang Kuala, Orang Kanaq and Orang Seletar. Meanwhile, Negrito group includes Kensiu, Kintaq, Jahai, Mendriq, Bateq and Lanoh.

The percentage of Melayu Proto increased to 44.4 per cent (2020) as compared to 40.9 per cent (2010), while Senoi and Negrito decreased to 53.5 per cent and 2.1 per cent (2020) from 56.0 per cent and 3.1 per cent (2010).

The composition of young age population (0–14 years) declined to 33.3 per cent (2020) from 39.9 per cent (2010), while the old age population (65 years and over) remained at 2.9 per cent. During the same period, the working-age population (15–64 years) increased from 57.2 per cent to 63.8 per cent, contributing to a decline in the total dependency ratio from 74.3 to 56.7. The young age and old age dependency ratio also declined to 52.2 and 4.5 in 2020 from 69.2 and 5.1 in 2010, respectively.

The percentage of population aged 15 years and over who had never married increased to 34.4 per cent in 2020 as compared to 32.5 per cent in 2010. The percentage of married population declined to 59.4 per cent (2020) from 61.8 per cent (2010). Those widowed decreased to 4.7 per cent in 2020 as compared to 4.8 per cent in 2010, while those divorced or separated increased to 1.6 per cent in 2020 from 1.0 per cent (2010).

Majority of the Orang Asli population were self-employed, accounting for 59.7 per cent in 2020 as compared to 50.2 per cent in 2010. Private employee is the second highest with 28.7 per cent, followed by government employee (6.6%), unpaid family worker (4.3%) and employer (0.7%).

The number of Orang Asli households increased to 54,275 in 2020 from 30,403 in 2010, with an average annual growth rate of 5.8 per cent. The average household size declined to 3.9 persons (2020) as compared to 5.3 persons (2010) over the decade. Kelantan recorded the largest average household size at 4.3 persons, followed by Pahang (4.2) and Negeri Sembilan (4.1).

The number of living quarters in 2020 were 45,189 as compared to 32,281 in 2010. The number of living quarters by states showed Pahang has the highest living quarters (16,975), followed by Perak (12,629) and Selangor (4,651).

The number of live births among the Orang Asli in 2024 was 4,198, a decrease of 9.1 per cent as compared to 4,620 births in 2020. Pahang recorded the highest number of live births, with 1,779 in 2024. Deaths among the Orang Asli increased by 23.4 per cent to 1,278 in 2024 from 1,036 in 2020. Pahang recorded the highest number of deaths, with 526 in 2024.

Ischaemic heart disease became the cause of death among Orang Asli in 2020 (12.5%) replacing Pneumonia (12.0%) in 2010. For males, the causes of death in 2020 was Ischaemic heart disease (13.6%) as compared to Transport accidents (13.0%) in 2010. Meanwhile, for females, Pneumonia remained the cause of death, showing a decreased to 14.6 per cent in 2020 from 15.2 per cent in 2010.

Orang Asli babies born in 2010 and 2020 are expected to live an average of 62.7 years and 67.8 years, respectively. Between 2010 and 2020, life expectancy at birth increased by 5.1 years, with male life expectancy rising by 6.1 years and female life expectancy by 3.5 years. The gender gap in life expectancy narrowed from 6.2 years in 2010 to 3.6 years in 2020. Compared to a decade ago, life expectancy gap decreased about 2.6 years.

ASEAN-Malaysia 2025 Chairmanship: The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) will chair the 15th ASEAN Community Statistical System Committee (ACSS15) which aims to strengthen the statistical cooperation towards sustainable regional development.

Malaysia, for the first time, ranked as number one (1) globally in the biennial Open Data Inventory (ODIN) 2024/25 report released by Open Data Watch (ODW), surpassing 197 other countries. This achievement marks a significant leap from its 67th position in the ODIN 2022/23 assessment.

The Government of Malaysia has declared October 20th as National Statistics Day (MyStats Day), with the theme 'Statistics is the Essence of Life'. Meanwhile, the Fourth World Statistics Day will be celebrated on 20th October 2025, with the theme 'Driving Change with Quality Statistics and Data for Everyone'.

OpenDOSM NextGen is a medium that provides data catalogue and visualisations to facilitate users' analysis and can be accessed through <https://open.dosm.gov.my>.

Chart 1: Number of Orang Asli and average annual growth rate, Malaysia, 1970-2025^P

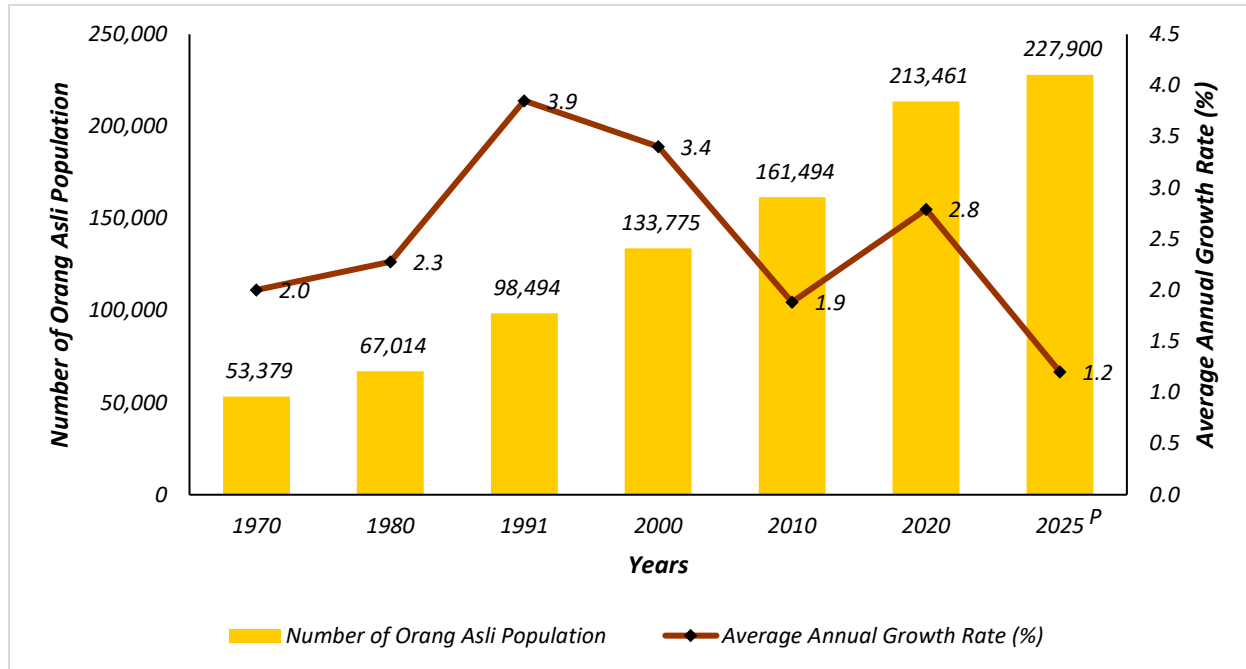


Table 1: Number of Orang Asli, average annual growth rate and sex ratio by state, Malaysia, 2010 and 2020

State	Number of Orang Asli Population		Average Annual Growth Rate (%)		Sex Ratio	
	2010	2020	2010	2020	2010	2020
Malaysia	161,494	213,461	1.9	2.8	103	103
Johor	10,257	14,616	2.2	3.6	106	101
Kedah	338	466	2.3	3.3	109	115
Kelantan	13,123	17,866	3.3	3.1	103	103
Melaka	1,502	2,224	3.2	4.0	102	105
Negeri Sembilan	9,502	13,067	2.8	3.2	104	101
Pahang	63,174	82,824	2.9	2.7	105	102
Pulau Pinang	156	128	-10.9	-2.0	95	86
Perak	51,585	58,942	2.5	1.3	100	103
Perlis	22	26	-0.4	1.7	100	44
Selangor	10,399	21,312	-4.7	7.4	108	110
Terengganu	619	1,248	0.1	7.3	102	98
Sabah	221	164	-9.2	-2.9	99	116
Sarawak	236	152	-2.3	-4.3	80	103
W.P. Kuala Lumpur	316	300	-4.7	-0.5	132	95
W.P. Labuan	15	15	1.4	-	150	150
W.P. Putrajaya	29	11	-	14.4	123	59

Table 2: Top three (3) administrative district with highest population of Orang Asli, Malaysia, 2020

Position	Administrative District	Number of Orang Asli Population
1	Batang Padang, Perak	17,092
2	Lipis, Pahang	14,999
3	Rompin Pahang	14,985

Chart 2: Percentage of Orang Asli population by main ethnic group, Malaysia, 2010 and 2020

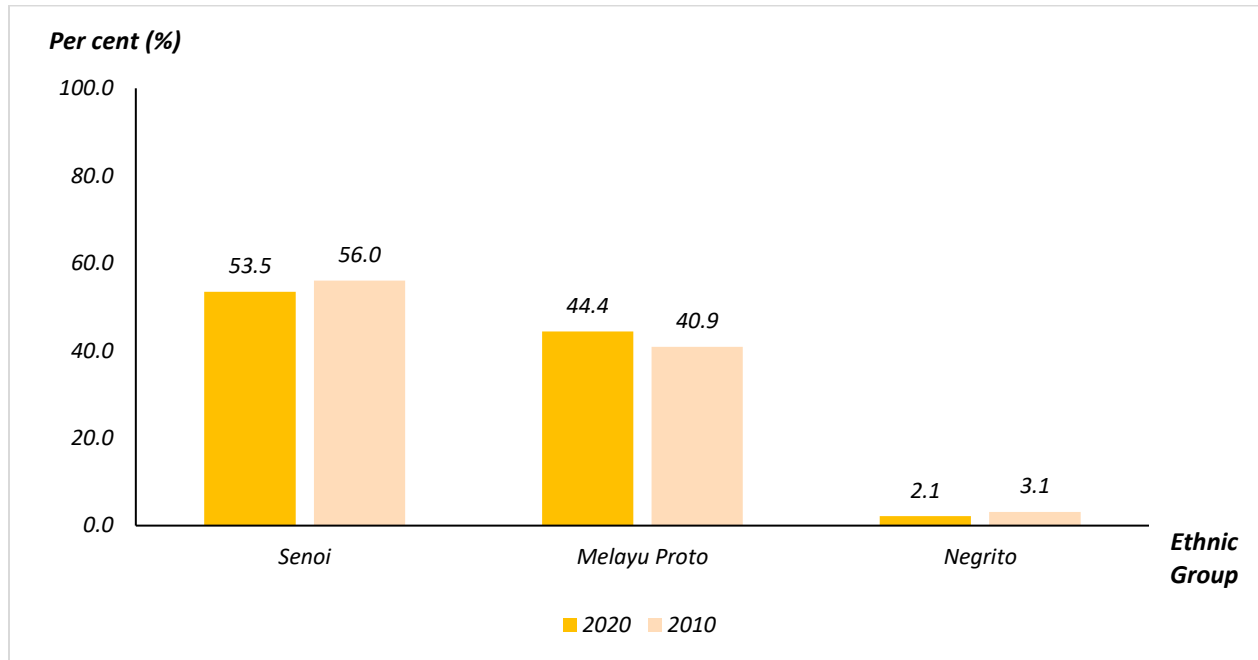


Chart 3: Percentage of Orang Asli population by age group, Malaysia, 2010 and 2020

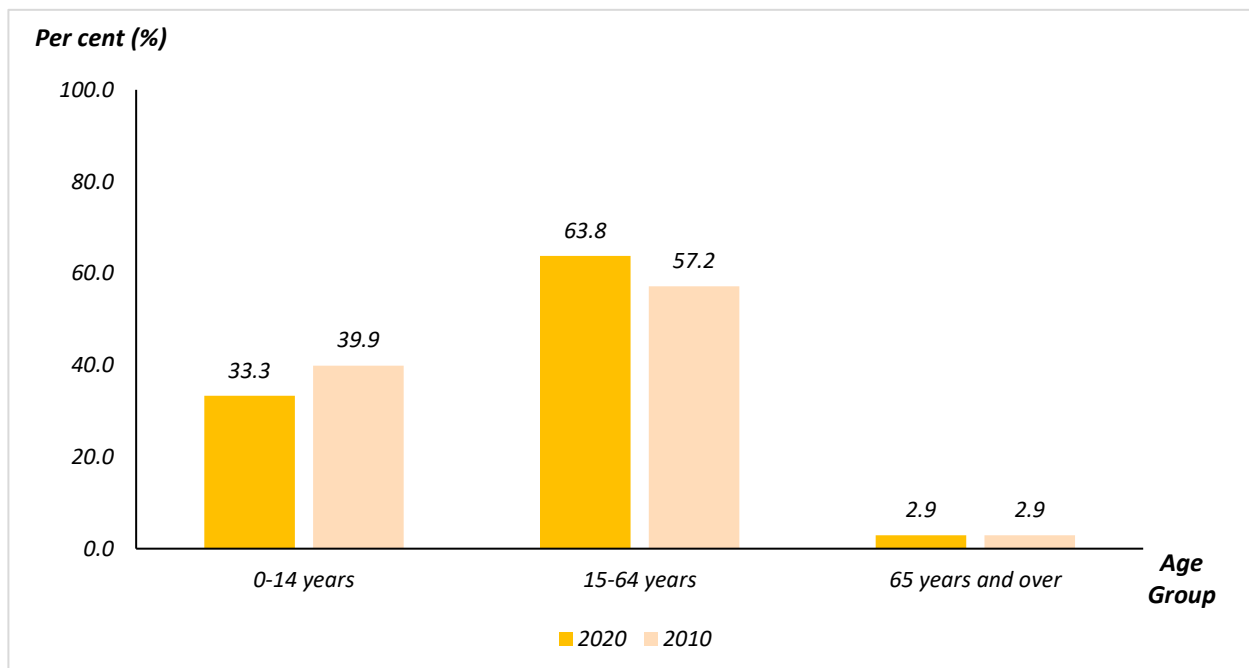
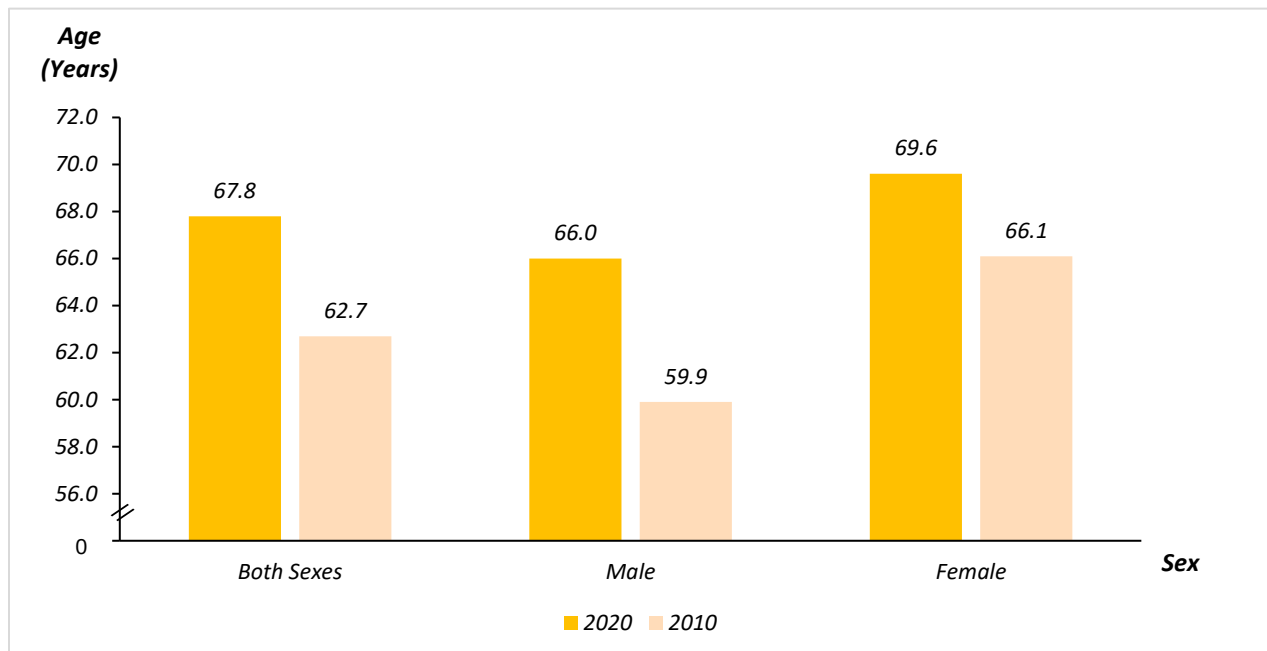


Chart 4: Life Expectancy of Orang Asli at birth, Malaysia, 2010 and 2020



Released by:

**THE OFFICE OF CHIEF STATISTICIAN
MALAYSIA DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS
MALAYSIA
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